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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-16	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SIL-00
	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-16	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	RPE-01	CORE-00	/066W			

-----08BF4C 240946Z /38

P 240844Z NOV 93  
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5094  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KIGALI 04164

YAOUNDE FOR DATT  
GEMBEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
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PAGE 02 KIGALI 04164 01 OF 02 240945Z  
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PGOV, PHUM, RW  
SUBJECT: CALM STILL PREVAILS AFTER CIVILIANS KILLED  
IN DMZ

REF: (A) KIGALI 4117, (B) KIGALI 4098

1. (C) SUMMARY. CALM CONTINUES TO PREVAIL IN  
RWANDA FOLLOWING THE 11/17 KILLINGS IN THE RUHENGERI  
SECTOR OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE (REFTELS). THE  
PRESIDENT IS CONVINCED THE RPF CARRIED OUT THE RAID,  
BUT ACCEPTS IT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DERAIL THE

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PEACE PROCESS. RPF DENIED INVOLVEMENT TO GENERAL DALLAIRE. UNAMIR INVESTIGATION TURNS UP VIRTUALLY NO LEADS TO ATTACKERS. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCED SUSPENSION OF JOINT COMMISSIONS WITH THE RPF, BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS REVIEWING THIS DECISION. HOW UNAMIR HANDLES RELEASE OF ITS REPORT WILL BE KEY IN MAINTAINING BOTH ITS CREDIBILITY AND CALM IN RWANDA. END SUMMARY.

PRESIDENT ON RAID  
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2. (C) PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA, ENRAGED ABOUT THE KILLINGS 11/17 IN RUHENGARI, TOLD AMBASSADOR DURING FAREWELL CALL 11/22 THAT HE HAS NO/NO DOUBT THAT THE RPF CONDUCTED THE RAID. THE AMBASSADOR URGED THAT THE INVESTIGATION BE LEFT IN THE HANDS OF THE UNAMIR. HE ALSO URGED THAT SUCH INCIDENTS, WHICH MAY BE EXPECTED TO OCCUR FROM TIME TO TIME, NOT/NOT BE ALLOWED TO DERAIL THE PEACE PROCESS. THE PRESIDENT AGREED.

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3. (C) THE PRESIDENT ALSO SEEMED TO ACCEPT THE MESSAGE THE AMBASSADOR CARRIED FROM RPF CHAIRMAN KANYARENGWE. KANYARENGWE ASKED DURING 11/20 FAREWELL CALL THAT THE AMBASSADOR CONVEY TO THE PRESIDENT HIS CONVICTION THAT THE TWO OF THEM HAD SIGNED THE PEACE ACCORD IN ORDER TO LIVE IN PEACE AS BROTHERS AND WORK TOGETHER TO CONSTRUCT THE NEW RWANDA. KANYARENGWE SAID THEY SHOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEMS NOW AND NOT LEAVE DISORDER TO THEIR CHILDREN.

UNAMIR INVESTIGATION  
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4. (C) GENERAL DALLAIRE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM THAT THE 11/17 RAID HAD BEEN WELL-PLANNED AND WELL-COORDINATED WITH THE STRIKE COMING AT FOUR, WIDELY-DISPersed LOCATIONS IN THE DMZ WITHIN TWO HOURS TIME. HE SAID THERE WERE VIRTUALLY NO WITNESSES LEFT BEHIND WITH ENTIRE FAMILIES KILLED, INCLUDING BABIES. HE SPECULATED THAT FEW GROUPS IN RWANDA ARE CAPABLE OF CONDUCTING SUCH A RAID. BUT HE IS NOT YET WILLING TO SPECULATE WHICH OF SUCH GROUPS MIGHT HAVE DONE IT. HEAD OF THE INVESTIGATION TOLD DCM HE HAS VIRTUALLY NO LEADS TO PERPETRATORS.

5. (C) GENERAL DALLAIRE MET WITH THE RPF LEADERSHIP AT

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MULINDI SATURDAY 11/20 TO DISCUSS THE INCIDENT. HE TOLD AMBASSADOR RPF COMMANDER KAGAME INSISTED THAT THE RPF WOULD NOT HAVE DONE SUCH A THING. HOWEVER, HE HAD ACKNOWLEDGED, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, THAT THERE COULD BE A RENEGADE UNIT IN THE RPF THAT COULD HAVE COMMITTED SUCH A RAID, BUT HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY.

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RPF ON RAID  
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6. (U) IN ITS RADIO MUHABURA BROADCASTS, THE RPF STEADFASTLY DENIES RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RUHENGERI KILLINGS, SAYING IT HAS NO INTEREST IN COMMITTING SUCH CRIMES. IN CONTRAST TO INITIAL GOVERNMENT CLAIMS (REF B), THE RPF CONTENDS THAT THE VICTIMS WERE MEMBERS OF THE RPF. WHILE THE RPF CRITICIZED THOSE JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS THAT THE RPF CARRIED OUT THE RAID, RPF COORDINATOR TITO RUTAREMARA IMPUTED RESPONSIBILITY TO THE MRND, CLAIMING THE MRND HAD BEEN BLOCKING ELECTIONS IN THE DMZ AND THAT IT HAD AN INTEREST IN INSECURITY IN

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THE ZONE.

DEFENSE MINISTRY SUSPENDS CONTACTS WITH RPF

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7. (U) ON 11/21, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE IN WHICH HE ANNOUNCED THE SUSPENSION OF ALL MEETINGS AND JOINT COMMISSIONS WITH THE RPF UNTIL THE RPF RENOUNCES SUCH ACTS AND DECLARES ITS WILLINGNESS TO REEMBARK ON THE PEACE PROCESS. THE COMMUNIQUE STATED: "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THESE IGNOBLE AND SAVAGE ACTS HAVE BEEN PERPETRATED BY THE RPF...IN ORDER TO PLUNGE THE COUNTRY INTO A BLOOD-BATH." IT DEMANDED IMMEDIATE FORMATION OF THE BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT, PUNISHMENT OF THOSE GUILTY OF THE KILLINGS, AND AN INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY INTO THE INCIDENT. IT ALSO REAFFIRMED THE COMMITMENT OF THE RWANDAN ARMED FORCES (FAR) TO THE PEACE PROCESS EMBODIED IN THE ARUSHA PEACE ACCORD AND THE FAR'S SUPPORT FOR THE MISSION OF UNAMIR.

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8. (C) ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF TOLD AMBASSADOR DURING HIS FAREWELL CALL 11/23 THAT HE IS COMMITTED TO DIALOGUE WITH THE RPF, BUT THAT IT IS DIFFICULT IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT RAID. HE PROMISED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD WORK TO KEEP THE PEACE PROCESS ON TRACK.

GOVERNMENT MEETS

9. (U) THE GOVERNMENT CALLED AN EMERGENCY COUNCIL OF  
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MINISTERS MEETING EVENING OF 11/22 TO DISCUSS THE COMMUNIQUE SIGNED BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. EMBASSY HAS NO REPORTS AS YET OF THE OUTCOME OF THAT MEETING.

10. (C) THE PRIME MINISTER AND SOME OTHER MINISTERS, HOWEVER, ARE UPSET THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTER TOOK UNILATERALLY A DECISION THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE PREROGATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE. THE PRIME MINISTER INITIALLY INSISTED THAT MEETINGS WITH THE RPF CONTINUE DESPITE THE INCIDENT (REF B) (BUT IT WAS THE RPF THAT DID NOT SHOW UP).

COMMENT

11. (C) RWANDAM OFFICIALS COMMITTED TO THE PEACE PROCESS APPEAR READY TO PUT THE KILLINGS BEHIND THEM AND NOT ALLOW THEM TO INTERFERE WITH THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RPF OR WITH THE PEACE PROCESS. IF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CAN REVERSE THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S COMMUNIQUE IT WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN GOVERNANCE, LETTING THE ARMY KNOW (AND THOSE WHO WOULD AGREE WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTER'S POSITION) THAT IT NO LONGER EXERCISES POWER UNILATERALLY IN RWANDA. RPF RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS INCIDENT IS NOT/NOT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION. MANY POINT TO THE ANOMALY THAT THE PREFET OF RUHENGERI WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE AT 7 AM THE MORNING AFTER THE INCIDENT THE LOCATIONS OF THE ATTACKS AND THE NAMES OF THE DEAD EVEN THOUGH THE SITES WERE WIDELY DISPERSED IN THE DMZ. HOW UNAMIR HANDLES THE REPORT OF ITS INVESTIGATION, POSSIBLY READY FOR RELEASE LATER THIS WEEK, WILL IMPACT ON ITS CREDIBILITY AND ON WHETHER CALM  
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WILL CONTINUE TO PREVAIL IN THE WAKE OF THIS INCIDENT.

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